Sending man to space

1148. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to send a man to the space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also includes sending a man to the moon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the proposed year of accomplishment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government has approved pre-project activities towards making a detailed project report aiming at developing technologies required for sending a man to space around earth.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Solid waste disposal

1149. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fct that urban population of 278 million generates 42 million tonnes of solid waste annually;

(b) if so, whether the solution adopted in urban areas is dumping in open landfills;

(c) if so, whether medical wastes and even hazardous chemical wastes are dumped in landfills, leading to serious health hazards through ground water pollution; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps that have been taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most Indian cities lack efficient arrangement for municipal solid waste management. Normally crude dumping is restored to on open spaces or on roadsides/drains by most of the ULBs in the country without adopting scientific and hygienic approach of sanitary land filling.

(c) and (d) The management of medical waste and hazardous waste are being dealt with by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Environment and Forests respectively. Necessary information has bemen called for in this regard and reply is awaited.

UIDSSMT projects in A.P.

1150. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of 23 projects submitted to his Ministry by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2006-07 under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) during September, 2006;